

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 3 (Original): Foods and drinks for reducing cholesterol containing a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2.

Claim 4 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

Claim 5 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 6 (Original): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*,

*Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*,  
*Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia*  
*burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida*  
*maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*,  
*Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A food[[s]] and/or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production containing a yeast as recited in any one of claims 4 to 6.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast belonging to *Candida*, *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a cholesterol-lowering agent, of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2 in the production of a food and drink for reducing cholesterol.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid procution inhibitor.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): Use according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Use, in the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, of a yeast as recited in any one of claims 11 to 13.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia crientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 17 (Original): A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

Claim 18 (Original): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 19 (Original): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 20 (New): A food or drink comprising at least one yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces*.